

House Government Operations Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HB 4205, a transparent bill written simply to repeal PA312 of 1969.

Both the Governor and the legislature have expressed a desire to have local governments manage their costs, and are encouraging best practices to make that happen. The cost to a municipality for police and fire is usually 75%, and rarely if ever less than 50%, of a municipality's General Fund budget. PA312 takes away their ability to control their costs and puts the authority to determine these costs in the hands of an unaccountable 3rd party. This Arbitrator is not answerable to the leadership of the municipality, nor to the administration of the police or fire department; not even to the taxpayers themselves. Beyond the control issue is the additional cost. The State of Michigan's own research says that PA312 adds at least 3-5% to the cost of the departments that come under this legislation. Repeal of PA312 allows these organizations better control of the overwhelming majority of their budget while reducing their immediate costs and their legacy costs.

Local governments cannot be held accountable for controlling their budgets, while at the same time have the power to control the largest portion of their budget taken out of their hands. Please support HB4205 and allow them the ability to manage their budgets or answer to the taxpayers directly if they don't.

Lana Theis

Chairman, Brighton Area Fire Authority

Treasurer, Brighton Township